

Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 5, 2007

Chair Paul Branson called the meeting to order at 10:35am. Attending: Janet Abelson, Steve Belkin, George Blackstock, Eleanor Bloch, Myrtle Braxton, Richard Burnett, Richard Hedges, Mary Lawrence, Marshall Loring, Bruce Oka, Barbara Rhodes, Dennis Trenten, Doug Weir, and Craig Yates. Excused: Herbert Crowle, Shirlee Zane.

Audience Member Self-introductions

--Adrian Fine, MTC Highway and Arterial Operations summer intern
--Bob Planthold, Self
--John Rudolph, West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Comm.

EDAC Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of April 5, 2007 were moved by Mr. Oka, seconded, and approved. Minutes from the meeting of June 7, 2007 were moved by Ms. Abelson, seconded by Mr. Oka, and approved.

Advisory Council Report on June 13th Meeting

Mr. Hedges noted topics that members discussed. He highlighted multiple comments discouraging the use of electronic gadgetry when seeking input from elders for MTC's Draft Public Participation Plan.

Chair's Report

Chair Branson promoted ABAG's FOCUS forums in late-July about the "Three Es": environment, economy, and equity that are part of the regional planning effort encouraging future Bay Area growth near transit and in existing communities.

Chair Branson acknowledged member resignations (Blackstock, Crowle), and highlighted EDAC's accomplishments over the past year:

- Inventoried transit-oriented developments to highlight DOs and DON'Ts of design for housing interiors and routes to nearby transit.
- Produced the already-popular Mobility Matters video.

- Advised on the many important topics of: (a) the 511 traveler information system; (b) MTC's upcoming long-range plan (T-2035); (c) accessible taxis and a likely promotional event in the future; (d) the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan identifying transport needs of elderly and disabled populations.
- Developed various tasks and goals for EDAC's FY 2007-09 Work Plan.

Mr. Blackstock, departing member, suggested that future meetings offer a break halfway to minimize disruption from people having to leave the meeting, and to keep anyone from falling asleep. He also suggested allowing EDAC members from outlying areas to call-in for meetings, having the added benefit of reducing congestion on the roadways.

EDAC Subcommittee Reports

Access/Service Issues Subcommittee Chair Oka said accessible taxis are needed in counties in addition to San Francisco, whose taxi commission he said authorized him to promote their use elsewhere in the region.

Legislative Report – There was no legislative report this month.

Staff Report – Ursula Vogler presented a brief staff report.

Transportation 2035 Report

Ray Kan made a now monthly report on T-2035 development, including its newly added topics of: a) transportation security and emergency management, and b) climate change.

Comments on the report:

- Prioritize the topic of separating pedestrians and bicyclists from automobiles and remember that pedestrians and bicyclists operate under different laws.
- Distinguish between “primary activities” and “essential services”: shopping can be daily (primary) for those unable to transport many groceries all at once, while medical appointments, though essential, might occur less often for

people. It was requested to reduce travel times to essential services for all components of the population.

- Don't marginalize inequities, via planning and funding, when it comes to travel by auto vs. travel by transit or paratransit.
- Give thought about how to accomplish the goal of increasing the percentage of residents who live in close proximity to transit.
- People won't forfeit use of their car if doing errands takes four hours.
- Transportation 2035 includes areas for improvement, especially in public transit. While EDAC members accept that transit improvements are incremental, they urge MTC to continue to improve public transit to increase ridership.
- If seniors and the disabled were not specifically addressed in Transportation 2030, and are omitted from T-2035, how long will their inclusion take? Please ensure that seniors and persons with disabilities are included in this RTP.

FTA Section 5310 Update

Introduced as new staff for the Sec. 5310 funding program for elderly and individuals with disabilities, Christina Atienza highlighted changes regarding coordinated planning requirements, mobility management and program measures.

Comments: Members encouraged proactive involvement of transportation system users. Mr. Planthold asked two questions:

- 1) Why are only government stakeholders convened for the program's advisory committee?
- 2) Is Caltrans in control of the program in California?

Ms. Atienza said she would look into the questions and respond. Chair Branson added that he is a new member of the Sec. 5310 Commission, which appeared to him to be a diverse group.

511 Transit Website Trip Planner

Tom Spiekerman's summary update included mention of innovations and a possible specialized interface to better accommodate screen readers for accessibility purposes. He was asked if 511 lets users (answers in parentheses): (a) search by "points of interest" (possibly in the future); (b) search outside the area, such as Sacramento (only if the

area joined the 511 system); (c) receive updates of late-breaking service changes (a long-term goal). He was encouraged to include Amtrak's Capitol Corridor service in the Trip Planner, as well as any existing shuttle services to transit hubs. Mr. Spiekerman was interested in creating a working group to do some usability testing in the near future. Ms. Vogler offered to assist Mr. Spiekerman with that request.

TransLink® Program

Nate Gilbertson updated members on the current status of the TransLink project and encouraged EDAC members to use TransLink® if they currently ride AC Transit and Golden Gate Transit and Ferry.

Comments: Janet Abelson commented that she is extremely disappointed that the AC Transit senior pass is not available on the TransLink® card. She was also disappointed that MTC would encourage EDAC's use of TransLink® when they could not use it with the pass. Ms. Vogler commented that the choice to offer only the adult pass was AC Transit's decision; the TransLink® project was never meant to dictate fare policy to the operators. The members requested that Ms. Vogler invite a member of AC Transit's staff to come to the next EDAC meeting and discuss the TransLink® rollout and their fare policy. Ms. Vogler said that she would work on it.

Other Business/Next Meeting/Adjournment

There was no other business. The next meeting was scheduled for Sept. 6, 2007. After a motion and a second, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.